THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received 295 proposals from the Government of Uttarakhand for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, during the last one year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of the 295 proposals received from the Government of Uttarakhand for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, during the last one year, 116 proposals have been accorded final approval and 86 proposals have been accorded in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Of the remaining proposals, 80 proposals have been returned to the State Government of Uttarakhand for additional information pertaining to the projects concerned, 1 proposal has been rejected on merits and the remaining 12 proposals are under various stages of processing in the Ministry.

Vacant Posts

†3263. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than half of the vacant posts in the Department of Environment and Forests are higher posts;

(b) if so, the number of posts vacant and since when they have been fallen vacant; and

(c) the reasons for not making appointment to these posts, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No Sir. Out of the 193 vacant posts, only 14 posts are higher level posts which comes to 6.74% of the total vacant posts. Appointments to these posts require approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). As per directions of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), the revision of the Central Staffing Scheme (CSS) of MoEF in respect of Indian Forests

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Services (IFS) posts is under consideration. The process of appointment in all the vacant posts is underway.

Pollution affected areas of Orissa

3264. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about pollution affected areas of the Orissa State;

(b) if so, how many districts are under the high pollution zone in the State;

(c) if so, whether Government have marked the industries due to which the pollution is being generated in these areas;

(d) if so, whether these industries has follow up the guidelines of Ministry for pollution prevention control, so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government have the sufficient manpower to look into the matter of Ministry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Though none of the districts in Orissa as a whole are under the high pollution zone, the environment in certain areas like Talcher & Angul, Jharsuguda and Rengali blocks are under stress due to industrial activities.

(c) to (e) The pollution problems in the said areas are due to Power Plants, Aluminum Smelter, Fertilizer Plant and Mining activity. Industry specific action points have been evolved for improving environmental conditions and the progress of its implementation is reviewed by State Pollution Control Board. All the major industries and mines of these areas which contribute significantly to the pollution load are regulated under the consent administration of the State Pollution Control Board. Appropriate conditions are stipulated by the Board for pollution prevention and control and enforced through the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. All the industries are also directed to comply with the norms